

HOUSE RESOLUTION 37
By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Ralph Goss, Jr. for meritorious service to the City of Knoxville and to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those citizens who have selflessly devoted themselves to the enhancement of both the members of their communities and the communities themselves; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Goss, Jr. is one such exemplary individual, having made numerous contributions to the people of Knoxville, particularly the youth; and

WHEREAS, an active 1959 alumnus of Austin High School, Ralph Goss began his service to the Knoxville community in 1972 when he was hired by the City of Knoxville Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, for several years, Ralph Goss was the Scoutmaster to boys in the Walter P. Taylor community, guiding and inspiring them to be better human beings; during his work with the Scouts, he and the Scouts initiated and annually served the Thanksgiving dinner to the community's senior citizens, a tradition that was later passed on to the James E. Derrick Elks, still under Ralph Goss' expert supervision and leadership; and

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WHEREAS, wishing to promote an increased involvement of the youth in sports, Ralph Goss was instrumental in creating a girls softball team, affectionately known as “The Players”, which, over 15 years, won many trophies and competitions, including City and State Tournaments; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Goss also worked with and was a valuable part of the Walter P. Taylor Community Club, where he advised and encouraged many children and promoted their involvement in worthwhile activities; and

WHEREAS, he also served as a coach and chaperone for children who participated in the Hershey track program, a part of the summer recreation program, and accompanied his participants all the way to the national competition in Hershey, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated civil servant, Ralph Goss has overseen the allocation of Empty Stocking Fund food baskets and toys through his affiliation with the James E. Derrick Elks Lodge and the Della L. Allen Temple; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Goss is also a prized member of the James E. Derrick Elks Lodge #1667, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and the Austin High School Class of 1959 Alumni; and

WHEREAS, a deeply spiritual man, Mr. Goss is a member of the Mattie E. Coleman C.M.E. Church, where he is also a Sunday School teacher, member of the Steward Board, and a member of the Men’s Chorus; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Goss is a consummate family man to whom family is of the utmost importance; and

WHEREAS, the eldest of seven siblings, Ralph Goss is most thankful for the love he shares with his wife, Laura, and his children, Celeste, Gary, and Runyaro; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Goss truly represents the ideal of the caring, dedicated, and compassionate family man and public servant; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor him; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Mr. Ralph Goss, Jr. of Knoxville for his boundless contributions to the City of Knoxville and the State of Tennessee, salute his efforts within the community, and wish him the best in his every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.